

P A R I S E T T E.

Fourth episode - The Inquest.

Binoclard had instinctively seized hold of a shutter thus preventing himself from falling, but the clothes back in their place when Cogolin and Parisette returned. Sobered up by danger, he hid himself behind a curtain and lost nothing of the conversation which went on between the two.

The Receiver was telling Parisette the secret of her birth. Her mother had died when she was born. Her father, since dead on the battlefield, Antonio da Constabella, a noble Portuguese, afraid perhaps of a misalliance, had gone back to his country and got married. Parisette being born eight months after. The Marquess da Constabella was therefore her grand father and the young lady, whose portrait she had seen, her sister. She might probably become the heir to an immense fortune. The papers relating to all this were there in a casket. They would take them to the Hotel Crillon on the morrow, meanwhile they went to bed.

Binoclard then came out. He quietly went to the casket took the papers put a few of the stolen jewels and in their place and went back, firmly this time; to Mr. Lapusse to whom he related the last events.

On the following day a Police Inspector came to Mr. Stefan to inform him that a murder had been committed at Neuilly. The culprit was thought to be an employee of his bank, as a button bearing the initials "B.S." (bank Stefan) had been found near the body. It was necessary for the inquest to have the names of the and the addresses of the Receivers for each one to be interrogated as to how they had spent their time that day. Mr. Stefan put himself at the Inspector's disposal and both went to the bank where the informations wanted could be found.

Mrs. Stefan had heard the conversation between her husband and the Inspector. -#oul- Cogolin would be questioned, would he tell the truth? would they arrest him? Dreadful dilemma.....

Greatly perturbed she ran to the Receiver's home, begged of him to go away and to come back only when the culprit would be found. Cogolin agreed and went recommending Parisette to Mrs. Stefan.

The Police did not lose time. They went to Cogolin's residence as his name came first on their list. They met in the stairs Mr. Lapusse and Binoclard going fishing - Parisette opened. One of the men asked "Where is Cogolin?" but she did not know. Suddenly the inspector caught sight of the Receiver's tunic. There was a button missing making him exclaim "It's him ... no mistake" ...

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